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June 1959 • Vol. XII • No. 10



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Volume XII

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New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Aldis, Dorothy (Keeley). Cindy; illus. by Polly Bolian. Putnam, 1959. 64p.
3-4 \$2.75.

A revised edition of a 1942 publication. The story of a tomboy who wanted a football outfit for her eighth birthday, because all she liked were boys' toys, clothes, or games. Cindy's parents wished that their little daughter would enjoy being a girl, but they bought the uniform. They were more aware than Cindy, however, that the boys didn't want any girl in their games, so they also bought her a frilly party dress. By the day of her birthday, a change had come over Cindy: she had begun to play with her hitherto-scorned dollhouse. When the party guests turned out to be girls instead of the boys she'd expected, Cindy was glad to dress up and play dolls. Cindy's conversion is a little abrupt, but this is a pleasant story of small affairs, and the relationships between children and adults are realistic and sympathetic.

R Aldis, Dorothy (Keeley). Hello Day; pictures by Susan Elson. Putnam, 1959.
4-7 64 p. \$2.75.
yrs.

A delightful collection of verse that reflects a child's viewpoint with insight and presents it with gentle humor. Some of the poetry will have an added appeal to adults who will see the children as they cannot see themselves, some will be appreciated more by the child who lives in suburb or country than in a city; all are satisfying to read aloud.

SpC Alexander, Lloyd. Border Hawk: August Bondi; illus. by Bernard Krigstein.
5-7 Farrar, 1958. 182p. (Covenant Books) \$2.95.

One of a series of books about Jewish personalities, some famous and others less well known. August Bondi, who had fought, at the age of fifteen, at the Viennese barricades in a student rebellion against the government, came to the Midwest in the years before the Civil War. The young man worked as a boatman on the Mississippi, took part in border disputes with John Brown, and served in the Union forces. Settling in Salina, Kansas, after the war Bondi became a leading citizen of the town, returning to the study of law and passing the bar examinations at the age of sixty-three. There is enough emphasis on Judaism to indicate that the book will be most useful in religious education collections. A little-known historical character and good background.

R Beeler, Nelson Frederick, and Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. Experiments
6-9 with Light; illus. by Anne Marie Jauss. Crowell, 1958. 143p. \$2.75.

Clearly presented and well illustrated, this is an overview of the nature of light, the ways in which light can be measured and some interesting experiments that may be attempted by the reader. Light and its relationship to color, the natural phenomena

of haloes and coronas, and the part played by light in the process of photosynthesis are explored; a stimulating chapter headed "Have You Noticed?" comments on familiar effects such as the flash of light on an automobile windshield or the distortion of window glass, and explains them. Instruments such as the stroboscope, microscope, and projector are explained. The functioning of lenses is described in easily understandable terms, and each section gives suggestions for testing the theory by experiment.

Ad Beim, Jerrold. Country Mailman; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Morrow, 1958. K-2 48p. \$2.50.

Ben lived on a rural delivery route, and he enjoyed walking down to the mailboxes, collecting mail and setting the flag on the box. He did wish, however, that he could get a letter himself. Finally he wrote away for a racing car, sending a boxtop and twenty-five cents; then he waited and waited for his letter. When it did come the car was very disappointing—it was little. And it wasn't like getting a letter at all. Ben's friends on the route found out about his wish, and he had a flood of mail from them after he helped the mailman clear the obstructed road so that the mail could go through. A slight and rather pleasant story; there is very little about the mailman or about rural mail service, as the title may indicate. Most children have shared Ben's longing for letters of their own, and can enjoy this appeal.

R Benary-Isbert, Margot. The Long Way Home; tr. from the German by Richard 8-12 and Clara Winston. Harcourt, 1959. 280p. \$3.

Chris had been orphaned during the second world war and had been brought up by an elderly school teacher in East Germany. When his activities in the resistance movement made it unsafe for him to stay, the thirteen-year-old boy was sent to cross the border alone; from the home of Quaker friends he went to the United States. Here Chris, after staying with several other families, lived with a G.I. who had been a friend in Germany. Larry had married a French girl and had adopted two children; the home situation was tense and some time after the family moved to California Denise went back to France. To the joy of all, she returned (with another orphan) content with her lot, having found that France was not as she remembered. Style of writing is excellent, and the analysis and motivation of the characters—even the minor ones—is perceptive.

R Bleeker, Sonia. The Eskimo; Arctic Hunters and Trappers; illus. by Patricia 4-7 Boodell. Morrow, 1959. 160p. \$2.50.

An excellent piece of informational writing in which a mass of factual material is presented in simple and vivid writing. The living habits of the Eskimo, his houses, tools, animals, feasts, legends, and ceremonies are described. The main part of the text is preceded by an interesting chapter on the origins and migrations of the Eskimo groups; the last chapter reviews very briefly explorations in the Arctic region by European and American expeditions, from the voyage of Eric the Red in the tenth century to the discovery in 1957 of a mile-high mountain in the Arctic Ocean.

R Bontemps, Arna Wendell. Frederick Douglass: Slave-Fighter-Freeman; illus. 4-6 by Harper Johnson. Knopf, 1959. 177p. \$3.

A simply written account of the boyhood and young manhood of the great writer and public servant, with the closing pages devoted to a brief description of his career and to his last years. Douglass emerges as a warm, vivid personality; especially valuable is the skill with which the author has incorporated the details of circumstance and condition that influenced Douglass. The reader sees how powerful was the motivation for escape from slavery and how natural the life-long dedication to achievement of a status of full equality for the Negro people.

M Bright, Robert. Georgie's Halloween. Doubleday, 1958. 32p. \$2.

K-2

Another story about Georgie, the shy ghost; this time there was a Hallowe'en party on the green and Georgie attended. Dressed, of course, as a ghost. Although the children recognized and cheered him, the shy little ghost ran home before the costume judge could see him. There was a nice surprise for Georgie at home, however, for the mice presented him with a ribbon. (The ribbon said "Giant Pumpkin" but in very small print.) The gentle ghost has the same appeal he had in previous books, but the humor is less effective in this book because Georgie is known by the children rather than living in his own world. Except for Georgie, this story relies too heavily on former books for characterization.

NR Brown, Pamela Beatrice. Understudy; illus. by Drake Brookshaw. Nelson, 7-9 1959. 211p. \$2.95.

Catherine, who lived alone with her mother, had completed her training at Dramatic School and had hunted desperately for work when her chance came. An American director cast her as an understudy after she had taken care of his children. The plot hinges on the attempts of Catherine and other actors to save the old theater for posterity. Catherine, having pleaded with the owner of the property in his office, followed him to the Continent; she broke into a television program to plead again. The owner was induced to visit the theater at the very time that Catherine went on in her part. She performed beautifully, the theater was saved, and the part was offered her for the company tour. Last saccharine development: the lame young neighbor who had always been devoted to Catherine appeared at her dressing room door—without crutches. Hackneyed plot and stereotyped characters. The American family—especially the children—is heavily caricatured.

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Pirate's Promise; illus. by Peter Burchard. Crowell, 3-5 1958. 87p. \$2.75.

Orphaned Tom Pippin was taken to London in 1716 and sold in bond to the Captain of the ship Lady Peg, bound for America. The ship was boarded by pirates and Tom, after several adventures, escaped from the pirates with his friend Benjy, who had once been a slave. In Carolina a family that had lost its only son asked Tom to live with them; certain that he would like this new country, the boy accepted. Good writing style and swift-moving plot, yet simple vocabulary makes reading easy. Useful for slow older readers because of the appeal of the piratical adventure.

NR Chaplan, Lucille. Elephant for Rent; illus. by Don Sibley. Little, 1959. 164p. 3-5 \$3.

Jimmy's father, in Africa to buy circus animals, sent Jimmy a baby elephant as a birthday present. Jimmy was boarding with a cruel couple named Mudge; and he became suspicious when, after some visits from a mysterious stranger, the Mudges began to act very kind. The stranger wanted Jimmy's elephant Rex, so Jimmy ran

and was admitted to membership in the church, fought in the French and Indian wars, and took a courageous stand against the witch-hunt that occurred during his term as governor. Absorbing material, good writing style.

R Cheney, Cora. The Doll of Lilac Valley; illus. by Carol Beech. Knopf, 1959.
3-4 112p. \$2.75.

Laurie, age 9, was travelling by herself to Vermont, to spend the summer as a boarder with the Hardwicks at Lilac Valley. While changing busses, Laurie lost her beloved doll Kathleen; with few toys and no children at Lilac Valley, Laurie was rather unhappy. Then she went to an auction—and found that a very old doll was buried in the pile of doll-clothes material she'd brought home. The doll was a collector's item and Laurie reluctantly sold it so that she could have the money to give her mother. All ended happily when Kathleen arrived in the very next mail. A delightful story for girls, in spite of the coincidences upon which the plot leans here and there. Laurie learns to adapt to a new situation and to take initiative during her first summer away from her mother; these changes are realistically presented.

R Christensen, Gardell Dano. Buffalo Kill. Nelson, 1959. 95p. \$2.95.
6-9

A vividly told story of the Indians of the Great Plains in prehistoric times. Each year one member of the tribe was trained to lead the buffalo over the cliff, jumping out of the way at the last possible moment. This year it was Winter Weasel, the chief's twelve-year-old son, who had the task; the boy was aware that upon his skill would depend the welfare of the tribe, so dependent on the buffalo for meat and hides, for the coming year. On his performance, also, would depend his admission to the status of manhood and his new adult name. The text is remarkably realistic and is augmented by the illustrations; Indian customs are endowed with dignity and the story of the buffalo drive itself has suspense and momentum.

R Colby, Carroll Burleigh. This Is Your Civil Air Patrol; The Purpose, Cadet
5-9 Program, Equipment of the U. S. Air Force Auxiliary. Coward-McCann,
1958. 48p. \$2.

A description of the evolution of the Civil Air Patrol, its wartime service and its function as a volunteer civilian organization since the legislation in 1948 which made the C.A.P. an official auxiliary of the U. S. Air Force. Format is the same as other Colby books: large photographs on each page, accompanied by a caption and a brief amount of descriptive text. Some of the topics included are the types of aircraft used, signals and insignia, and some of the services and duties of the C.A.P.

Ad Colver, Anne. Borrowed Treasure; illus. by Bernard Krigstein. Knopf, 1958.
3-5 83p. \$2.50.

Molly-O and Pip were in agreement, as best friends should be, that the best thing in the world to have was a horse; they couldn't find any way to have a horse until they

were loaned one. Promptly they named the horse "Borrowed Treasure" and he was kept at the stables of an abandoned race track and was loved, curried, and ridden by every child who belonged to the Youth Center. When the group gave a circus, Borrowed Treasure was one of the feature performers; Molly-O and Pip were delighted to hear that the profit from the show would be applied to the purchase price of the horse. An adequate but not unusual horse story. Writing style is good, but the plot leans on coincidence: Treasure turns out to have been trained as a circus horse, the empty stable is handy, and the little immigrant at school is actually from a famous circus family of equestrians and trapeze artists. Good brother-sister relationship.

R Coombs, Charles Ira. Airmen and What They Do. Watts, 1958. 192p. \$3.95.
7-10

A description of the varied careers in aviation, most of those discussed being achieved through military service. In informal fictionalized style are told the stories of Nate Brown, a test pilot, or of Jim Taylor, an Air Force trainee, as he progresses through the steps in his basic flight training. Other chapters describe helicopter operations, work being done in design and research, aviation-related ground jobs, civilian flying and the WAF. Glossary is appended.

M Davis, Lavinia (Riker). It Happened on a Holiday; illus. by Jean MacDonald
4-5 Porter. Doubleday, 1958. 180p. \$2.95.

A dozen stories, each related to a specific holiday, of which some are contemporary and some are historical fiction. The latter bear a real relationship to their respective holidays, but the stories about children today have only a superficial relationship; for example, the story for Christmas is primarily about ice-boat racing. Writing style is very good, but the plots are stilted. First published in 1940.

Ad De Leeuw, Adele Louise. A Heart for Business. Macmillan, 1958. 193p.
6-8 \$2.75.

Mary-Ellen joined a new Junior Achievement group that had been formed in spite of the fact that her boy friend Greg assured her that she had no head for business at all. But Mary-Ellen surprised everyone by her initiative in getting orders from a large store and in her organizing ability. The young people described are realistic and their behavior is consistent with their personalities, but the emphasis on Junior Achievement as an organization and on its procedures somewhat hampers the narrative flow.

NR Denker, Henry. That First Easter; illus. by Ezra Jack Keats. Crowell, 1959.
5-6 128p. \$3.

Daniel was the nephew of Peter the fisherman and he and his uncle came to Jerusalem with Jesus of Nazareth. The story of the first Easter is fictionalized with Daniel as an integral part of the events: the boy heard a spy being sent to the High Priest during the entry into the Holy City, he saw Jesus punish the money changers, waited in Gethsemane, stood with Jesus before Pontius Pilate, and was with the disciple Thomas when he saw that Jesus was indeed risen. The moving events cannot be diminished in significance, but the impact is dulled by the omnipresent Daniel, whose presence strikes a false note.

R Dick, Trella Lamson. Flag in Hiding; illus. by Don Bolognese. Abelard-
5-7 Schuman, 1959. 175p. \$3.

A well-written story about the Revolutionary War. Living in the Hudson Valley in territory that was chiefly Tory, the Stewart family pretended Tory sympathy while they worked to aid the patriot cause. Randy and Cynthia Stewart made and hid a copy of the flag that the new Congress had designed, helped some of the people who were working in secret for the colonial cause, and helped their mother with the farm while

their father was away with the American Army. Plot moves swiftly and suspense is well maintained.

R Eastman, Philip D. Sam and the Firefly. Random House, 1958. 62p. (A Beginner Book) \$1.95.

A book for the beginning independent reader; vocabulary has 195 words. Sam, the owl, wanted to play one night and the only creature who was about was Gus the firefly; they had a wonderful time when Sam showed Gus how to skywrite with his light. Words, words, words; they wrote all over the sky. Then Gus was carried away and played tricks with his skywriting; one irate victim caught him. When the man's truck stalled on a railroad track, Sam helped Gus escape from a jar and signal the train to stop; thus Gus made amends for his misconduct. Gus and Sam played at night after that, but played no more tricks. The story has action, humor and a quite painless lesson. The incident of the accident is questionable.

R Elwell, F. R., and Richardson, J. M. Science and the Doctor; illus. with 7-10 charts, line drawings, and photographs. Criterion, 1959. 160p. \$3.50. A most comprehensive and well-written history of medicine in which the authors, by using informal style and by organizing the material with ingenuity, have made a fresh approach to a rather worn topic. They introduce a family doctor as he makes his round of calls, and throughout the remainder of the book in discussing a new drug or a new operative technique reference is made to the specific cases in which these were used. Some of the topics included are medical tools, germs and the weapons used against them, life-saving chemicals, anesthesia, blood banks, and radioactive substances. As subjects are explored, the work of the great men of medicine and science who contributed to that field are described.

R Faulkner, Nancy. The Yellow Hat; illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. Doubleday, 1958. 7-10 212p. \$2.95.

A tale of London in the year 1381. Adam, a young peasant, came to the city with the group of protesting peasants led by Wat Tyler; braving the terrible penalties of the runaway serf, Adam decided to stay in London when the revolt failed. He fell into a den of thieves led by Hamo, suitor of Geoffrey Chaucer's serving maid, Kate. An absorbing adventure story, in which Chaucer helps Adam find freedom, Kate and Adam find each other, and Hamo gets his just desserts. As interesting as is the tale itself is the picture of fourteenth century London. Good characterization, convincing historical atmosphere.

M Fitt, Mary. Alfred the Great; The Story of an English King; illus. by Robert 4-6 Hodgson. Nelson, 1959. 84p. \$2.95.

A biography of Alfred, King of the West Saxons, written quite simply but with rather effusive praise. Detailed in particular are the years of struggle with the Danish invaders, and the productive years of peace in Alfred's reign, in which he fostered education for his people and a code of laws to be administered with justice. Although the life of this great ruler is interesting, the plethora of battle details and of place names unfamiliar to the American reader (as well as Saxon personal names) are distracting. The author occasionally strays into irrelevancies, writing style is patronizing, and the characterization of Alfred the Great is adulatory.

NR Foster, Celeste K. Casper, the Caterpillar. Denison, 1958. 48p. \$2.50. 3-4

Story of a little caterpillar that was unhappy about the way he looked and about the way other insects treated him; he didn't believe it when Miss Honeybee told him that he would be a butterfly some day. One day he grew lazy—became a chrysalis—and then Casper emerged as a beautiful Monarch butterfly. Text is effusive and illustra-

tions are sentimental and repetitive; the merging of fiction framework and information is not skillful. Large size pages and print are too young for the reader who can master the vocabulary.

R Françoise. Jeanne-Marie at the Fair. Scribner, 1959. 32p. \$2.95.
4-7 yrs.

Gay and stylized illustrations (alternately in many colors and in pink, black, and white) enhance another ingenuous story about Jeanne-Marie. This time Jeanne-Marie goes to the fair after having carefully tied her pet sheep, Patapon; Patapon is lonesome, however, and breaks the rope to follow his mistress. The little girl has a gay time at the fair and wins a lovely doll, but suddenly she hears a familiar voice—it is Patapon, frightened by an elephant. Happily reunited they return home, Jeanne-Marie to dream of her doll, Patapon of the elephant. Just enough suspense for small listeners, and the perennial appeal of familiar characters.

R Gallup, Lucy. The Independent Bluebird; illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 3-4 1959. 64p. \$2.50.

The story of a baby bird that was pushed out of the nest and learned to fly early to escape the perils of being on the ground. After this, the independent bluebird grew increasingly self-reliant; he even remained behind when the flock departed for the South, joining a later flight when some strange birds were in the vicinity. Excellent informational writing in which one senses the mood and tempo of outdoor life; both text and illustrations are distinguished by a rare combination of accuracy and sympathy.

M Gay, Zhenya. Small One. Viking, 1958. 32p. \$2.
3-5 yrs.

Small One was a baby rabbit who wandered away from his brothers and sisters; he met other animals, but he couldn't find his mother and he knew he was lost. He went to sleep and was wakened by a jay's warning cry; there was a fox nearby, but just in time Small One's mother came, led the fox away and rescued her baby. Small One was scolded properly and went back home to a late supper and a bedtime story. Story is drawn out and unoriginal, but the soft illustrations have a sentimental appeal.

R Goudey, Alice E. Houses from the Sea; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Scribner, K-2 1959. 32p. \$2.95.

A read-aloud picture book about common shells, beautifully and imaginatively illustrated. Two children wander along the beach and find shells; an easily assimilable amount of information is given about each shell, and the illustrations are often accompanied by a second drawing showing the imaginative comparison based on the shell's name—for example, the wentletrap (a Dutch word meaning spiral staircase) is shown on a double page spread with a faint pastel medieval staircase swirling through the water. All the shells pictured are repeated on pages where they are labeled, and a brief explanation of how shells are made is appended.

Ad Gustafson, Anne. Frank of Irrigated Farm; pictures by Robert M. Brunton. 2-4 Benefic, 1959. 96p. \$1.60.

The Penny family lives on an irrigated farm and grows oranges. Each of the children plants his own tree, and each has a day of celebration on the day that the tree reaches the height of its owner. A considerable amount of information is incorporated into the book, even the incidents of the trips on the children's orange tree days being used for fact-giving. Useful for curricular units on the farm, or for early social studies. The book is weakened somewhat by incomplete explanations; for example, the "wall that

keeps back water" is never called a dam and the fact that Mr. Penny shows the children "some other kinds of plants that grow with irrigation water" implies that peanuts and cotton are meant, but it is never so stated. Although there are many illustrations, the only three photographs in the book show peanut and cotton crops, although the book is about an orange grove. A controlled vocabulary for beginning readers.

M Hall, Marjory. White Collar Girl. Funk, 1959. 248p. \$2.95.
7-9

Alix Whitney's parents decided that she should attend a secretarial school after graduating from high school, and shy Alix dreaded the new experience. She made some new friends, met some new men, and found that she enjoyed the work itself and the prospect of being a white collar girl. Alix fell in love with Glenn Hudson and they agreed that their education and careers were important enough so that marriage could wait. A run-of-the-mill career and love story, mitigated somewhat by the realistic relationships between the girls at the school; the adjustment that Alix and her friend Debby make to maintaining their long-standing friendship while making new friends is especially well described.

NR Hall, William. Winkie's World; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Doubleday, 1958.
3-4 31p. \$2.
yrs.

A day in the world of a child of two: the sun rises on a series of familiar objects, the day grows hot and the sun shines on other objects, the clouds come over the trees (and other things), it rains on the teacher, lamp-post, puddle, etc., etc. A quite confusing picture book, with many illustrations filling the pages and with events that follow in a puzzling sequence; e.g., the rain pours and pours over Winkie's world—people are shown crossing a city street—then, on the next page, the rainbow covers Winkie's world, and scenes from a beach are shown.

Ad Hallowell, Priscilla C. The Long-Nosed Princess; A Fairy Tale; illus. by
4-6 Rita Fava. Viking, 1959. 64p. \$2.

A modern fairy-tale based on the ideas that beauty is only skin deep and that handsome is as handsome does. Princess Felicity is loved by all her subjects because she is kind, cheerful, and generous. Even the animals love her. When handsome Prince Fustian comes to woo her, he is amused by the comical appearance of her long nose, but he is far from pleased; claiming that he has been misled, Prince Fustian goes off to woo a lovelier lady. But he becomes fond of Felicity when she nurses him through an illness; when he hears that she is about to be wed, he rides back to challenge the groom. Betrothed at last to Prince Fustian, Felicity asks if she shall use a magic spell to shorten her nose. Even Prince Fustian disapproves—as do all her subjects; everybody loves Felicity just the way she is. Some of the concepts and vocabulary suggest sophistication as a necessary reader-attribute. Useful for creative dramatics, although for this purpose, as in reading the book, there is a discordant effect in the combination of modern phrases and courtly speech.

M Hastings, Evelyn Belmont. Big New School; illus. by Polly Jackson. Follett,
1-2 1959. 29p. (A Beginning-to-Read Book)

For the beginning independent reader, a book with a controlled vocabulary of 152 words; tested for first grade and useful for slow second grade readers. A one-room rural school is described as it was when new, and it was then a big new school; as time passed and more people came to live near the school, there were more children. A big new brick school was built, and the old schoolhouse was used for meetings and parties. Some of the people who had gone to the old school told the children what it had been like; the children liked the stories about the wood stove and about

coming to school in wagons, but they liked their own big new school best. The chief appeals are in sense of continuity and in the picture of former times, about which most children are so curious. The chief weakness of the book is the transition from the old days to the present: the period of time-of-change being alluded to with a brevity that may cause confusion. Also a possible source of confusion may be the reference to the older school as the "big new school."

NR Hoff, Carol. The Four Friends; illus. by Jim Ponter. Follett, 1958. 32p.
1-2 (A Beginning-to-Read Book)

Controlled vocabulary that has been tested for second grade reading. The story of a little mouse who is running away from a big black cat; first the mouse rides on the back of her friend the rabbit, then is rescued by the turtle and finally is carried by the bluebird to the safety of his nest. The cat tries to climb the tree and reach the nest, but falls; he is frightened away by a dog. The behavior of the animals is not realistic, and the plot and conversation are both stilted.

Ad Holden, John. The Rattlesnake God; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Day, 1959. 190p.
7-10 \$3.

A story that takes place in Yucatan in 1440, when the native Mayan people had been for over 200 years subject to the rule of barbarians from Mexico who had been given the city of Chichen Itza as a war prize. The rising revolt of the Mayas against the followers of the rattlesnake god is pictured as the background for the love story between a wealthy orphan girl and a boy who is an heir of the exiled rulers of Chichen Itza. The details of personal and place names and of cultural patterns and historical references obtrude upon the story, but they give quite a bit of information; the action moves slowly, although the scene in which the girl is rescued after she has been flung into the Well of Sacrifice is exciting.

Ad Holland, Marion. No Room for a Dog; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Random, 1959.
3-4 79p. \$1.95.

Bud and his grandfather lived in a one-room house set on piles over the riverbank, and Grandpa made it clear that there was no room for the dog that Bud wanted. When Bud rescued a dog from the river, Grandpa said that the dog would have to be tied outside and that Bud could keep him only until the owner was found. Grandpa changed his mind, however, when the dog's barking gave warning of rising flood waters. When plans were made for rebuilding the damaged house, the plans included room for a dog. Pleasant but unoriginal dog story, the plot hinging on the fairly standard device of the unwanted animal that is appreciated because of a good deed. Grandpa is almost a caricature of an old salt, but Bud and his friends are quite realistic in behavior and in conversation.

R Howard, Joan. The Story of Robert Louis Stevenson; illus. by Jo Polseno.
4-6 Grossett, 1958. 179p. (Signature Books) \$1.95.

A lively and sympathetic account of Stevenson's life; this fictionalized version is replete with dialogue and anecdote. Especially appealing are the chapters devoted to Stevenson's childhood. For the young man, there was the conflict between his desire to write and the wish of his family that he carry on as a builder of lighthouses. His marriage, the trip to the United States, the lingering illness and the home in Samoa are described.

R Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. From Submarines to Satellites; Science in Our
6-9 Armed Forces. Whittlesey House, 1958. 107p. \$3.50.

A survey of the advances in science that are in operation in the armed forces of the United States. Some of the topics discussed are the aircraft carrier and the submarine, meteorological study and weather control, radar stations, computer-directed

attack, new testing methods, missiles and satellites, and uses of atomic power. Many excellent photographs and a text that is both interesting and informative.

Ad Jones, Raymond F. The Year when Stardust Fell. Winston, 1958. 203p.
7-9 \$2.50.

A science fiction novel with overtones of social significance. In the college town of Mayfield, a high school student named Ken Maddox was among the first to realize that there was a connection between the mysterious new comet that had been observed and the alarming rate of machinery stoppage. The dust from the comet had a destructive effect that stopped machines, and all routine was disrupted. As living became more and more primitive, social organization began to deteriorate. When the comet at last moved farther away in its orbit, mankind proceeded to decontaminate itself from the paralyzing dust and to reconstruct the social order. Good adventure; sharp commentary on human behavior.

R Judson, Clara (Ingram). St. Lawrence Seaway; drawings by Lorence F.
6-9 Bjorklund; illus. with photographs of the Seaway. Follett, 1959. 160p.
\$3.45.

An impressive and timely book. Comprehensive in the background of the great navigation and power scheme as well as detailed and documented in describing the construction. Excellent photographs, maps, and diagrams are included. A history of explorations and of improvements of the waterways follows a description of the geology and topography of the region. The story of earlier canals and locks is told, as is the story of the long discussions and negotiations between the United States and Canada. In telling of the construction, Mrs. Judson makes real and vivid the impact of the Seaway on the lives of the residents who live in the area, and she writes with conviction of the future of this huge co-operative project.

M Justus, May. Then Came Mr. Billy Barker; pictures by Joan Balfour Payne.
K-2 Hastings House, 1959. 45p. \$2.75.

Simple story but difficult vocabulary in a book for reading aloud to small children. The animals at the foot of the Big Log Mountain lived together amicably, and then along came Mr. Barker with a gun over his shoulder. He cleared some land, built a house and planted a garden. Snoopy Possum and Slippery Coon liked Mr. Barker's corn, but were frightened away by a scarecrow. The animals agreed that the old place wasn't safe any more, so they all moved to the other side of the mountain. Here they laughed at having outwitted Mr. Billy Barker; meanwhile Mr. Billy Barker was delighted because he had gotten rid of the animals for good, so everybody was happy. Illustrations have vivacity, and the style of the text has flavor, but the story line is rather insipid and drawn out.

R Lauber, Patricia. Changing the Face of North America; The Challenge of the
5-7 St. Lawrence Seaway; maps and diagrams by Wes and Gloria McKeown.
Coward-McCann, 1959. 94p. (A Challenge Book) \$2.50.

An excellent report on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Not as extensive a treatment as is Mrs. Judson's book (reviewed in this issue) this book is equally useful for somewhat younger or slower readers; the vocabulary and the presentation itself are simpler. Illustrated by clear diagrams, maps, and photographs, the book tells of the first explorers and the first canals and locks, the needs for an inland waterway and the problems posed, the discussion between Canada and the United States, and the building of the Seaway. An especially interesting last section discusses the effect of the "fourth seacoast" on some of the great lake cities and the possibilities of future expansion of the Seaway.

M Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson). Sia Lives on Kilimanjaro; photographs by Anna

3-4 Riwwin-Brick. Macmillan, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

A description, in narrative form, of the family and the way of life of Sia, a little girl of the Chagga people. The Chagga live on the slopes of Kilimanjaro, and there are informative and interesting photographs of their homes and their customs on each page. The text, however, is pedestrian in style and has little continuity; this is probably due to the fact that it seems to have been devised to describe the pictures. Sia and her brothers and sisters are appealing children and the book will be useful for the photographs alone.

R Lobsenz, Norman. The First Book of West Germany; pictures by Lili Réthi.
4-6 Watts, 1959. 66p. \$1.95.

A well-rounded description of West Germany, giving a brief historical and geographical review, an explanation of the division of the country into East and West Germany, and an overview of the principal cities and industries. In addition to this information, there is much interesting material on the folkways and the holidays of the German people. Two sections at the back of the book are so scanty as to make their inclusion of dubious value: one is entitled "A Few Famous Germans" and lists twelve; the other is headed "Did You Know That" and is a two-page compilation of odd facts. There are some oversimplified explanations and some rather puzzling phonetics in the list of German words ("Pfeffer—pfee-fer" might well be mispronounced) but this is, despite the few weak points, a useful and interesting book.

M McCall, Edith S. The Buttons See Things That Go; pictures by Jack Faulkner.
K-1 Benefic, 1959. 48p. \$1.40.

A pre-primer for supplementary use. The six Button children and their mother visit a museum that is, although it is not so stated, apparently a transportation museum. The vocabulary of 44 words is used unimaginatively and the repetition of "where" and "here" in referring to all the vehicles is confusing. No interest is added by the illustrations, which do not give enough detail to be informative.

Ad McCall, Edith. Log Fort Adventures; pictures by Carol Rogers. Childrens
3-5 Press, 1958. 127p. (Frontiers of America) \$2.50.

Stories of the pioneers who lived at Harrodsburg or Boonesborough, two forts in the wilderness of Kentucky at the close of the eighteenth century. After an explanatory section giving background information, nine short stories are related, some of them in sequence. Adequate but not unusual in style; some of the incidents are told in other stories about Daniel Boone.

M MacIntyre, Elisabeth. Jane Likes Pictures. Scribner, 1959. 32p. \$2.75.
K-2

A picture book with rhyming text. Jane's schoolmates made fun of her because she always wanted to read or draw instead of joining their play. "Without Jane to tease they found life very flat" and they called on Jane to find that she was sitting for her father, an artist. Then they visited her mother's studio, where they learned some trick drawing, after which they felt encouraged to draw for fun. They still liked to tease Jane, but they also liked to draw with her. The teasing strikes an unpleasant note, and the conversion of the teasers into amateur artists is not completely believable, but there is value in the idea that everybody can draw, and that it can be enjoyable as much as is more active play.

NR Malvern, Gladys. Rogues and Vagabonds; A Novel about the First Acting
7-9 Troupe To Play in America. Macrae, 1959. 188p. \$2.95.

The Hallam theatrical troupe dared to come to colonial Williamsburg despite the ban on actors; they received permission from Governor Dinwiddie to perform their Shakespearian repertoire. Lovely and cultured Mary Hallam, ingenue of the troupe,

was pursued by the evil Pierre de Narville, who was determined that Mary would be his through marriage or that he would kill her. Money, not love, motivated Pierre; Mary, a distant cousin, was actually a French countess on the paternal side and her wealth would be inherited by Pierre were she to die. But Mary fell in love with a stalwart colonial, whose snobbish sister finally realized that Mary was a lady. A quite ordinary quasi-historical love story, with stock characters and situations. Conversation is besprinkled with "Fie" and "Sink me" for verisimilitude.

R Meader, Stephen Warren. The Voyage of the Javelin; illus. by John O'Hara
7-9 Cosgrave. Harcourt, 1959. 189p. \$2.95.

The story of a boy who lived in Kittery, Maine in 1854. Bob Wingate shipped out on the clipper ship Javelin, bound for San Francisco. Bob and his friend Matt Ryder were enthusiastic sailors and were as anxious as the older members of the crew that the Javelin beat Goldfinder, another ship that was racing to be the first to round Cape Horn and reach San Francisco. The life aboard ship and the many adventures Matt and Bob have on the West Coast make exciting reading. The dramatic episodes are kept within the bounds of credibility.

M Menius, Opal. Patsy's Best Summer; illus. by Niel Peper. Scott, 1959. 182p.
4-6 \$2.95.

Patsy and another orphan win a chance to go with two teachers on a cross-country bus trip to California and back. Patsy has a happy summer, although her hopes of being adopted are not realized. She has several adventures: she gets lost in a cave and is trapped in an elevator. A rather odd escapade is included when Patsy, on the strength of a note from a peculiar old lady who has been following her, leaves her party in Salt Lake City to go to the home of a stranger. Patsy learns some self-discipline and consideration for others on her trip, but the values in the story are dwarfed by the weaknesses of style, especially the continual interpolation of useful knowledge—for example, a man on the bus tells the orphans all about state birds and Patsy remembers, as she gazes at Pike's Peak, that here someone had been inspired to write "America the Beautiful."

M Norman, Charles. The Flight and Adventures of Charles II; illus. by C. Walter
6-8 Hodges. Random House, 1958. 182p. (A World Landmark Book) \$1.95.
Charles II, crowned at Scone after returning from his refuge in Holland, assumed leadership in the bitter struggle between Cavaliers and Roundheads; in 1651 he crossed the border into England with the Royalist Army and was defeated. After a hazardous trip across England, Charles sailed to France, where he remained in exile until the restoration in 1660. Written in a rather heavy and monotonous style, this is neither as good a picture of the times nor of the man as is presented in Seven Kings of England (Vanguard, 1955) by Trease.

R Ogilvie, Elisabeth. How Wide the Heart. Whittlesey House, 1959. 186p. \$3.
7-9

Ellen Douglass looked forward to the summer after high school graduation: a chance to be back on her beloved island home and to do some painting before the autumn and her departure for the Boston art school. She hadn't expected a proposal from Joey, whom she'd known all her life, and she hadn't even realized how appealing the ideas of marriage and children were. A readable story for teen-age girls and a realistic presentation of the problem of early marriage versus career.

M Palazzo, Tony. The Little Red Hen. Garden City Books, 1958. 38p. \$1.
3-5
yrs.

An adaptation of the old favorite, in an oversize picture book in which the illustra-

tions fill the pages. The rhythm of the original is lost in this version, since the "Not I" chorus is expanded; for example, "'Not I,' barked the dog. 'I'm leaving to chase a squirrel.'" Some of the handsome illustrations are on double page spreads, unfortunately bound so that the lines of the drawings are broken. The large simple pictures can be used in a picture book story-telling situation to hold while telling the story from the familiar traditional version.

Ad Parker, Richard. The Sword of Ganelon; illus. by William Ferguson. McKay, 7-9 1958. 213p. \$3.50.

An adventure story of Britain in the ninth century. Binna, the youngest son of a family who are Jutes and Christians, becomes apprenticed to a leech. Binna's life is changed by the activities of the invading Danes; the sword of Ganelon is found near the body of a fallen enemy, and Binna is involved in many exciting incidents before the sword is given into the hands of King Alfred. The historical background is engrossing, and the plot is interesting; writing style is a bit heavy, and a weakness (since this is historical fiction rather than fantasy) is the mysticism that emerges in such incidents as the magical disappearance of a "rune of doom" from the hilt of the sword.

R Pine, Tillie S., and Levine, Joseph. Sounds All Around; illus. by Bernice 3-5 Myers. Whittlesey House, 1959. 48p. \$2.50.

Describes what really happens when sounds are made, the different ways in which sounds are produced, how sound travels and why sounds differ in pitch. Suggestions are given for ways to make instruments with materials found in the home and for home experiments in creating, changing, and stopping sound. Interesting material presented in easily understandable terms.

R Politi, Leo. Saint Francis and the Animals. Scribner, 1959. 32p. \$2.95. 2-3

Illustrated in soft colors is the story of the gentle man who loved all that God had created. The first part of the book describes the young man Francis Bernadone, his love of all life and his dedication to helping others. Succeeding sections are separate brief tales about incidents in the life of St. Francis; the division and the large pictures indicate usefulness in reading the book aloud to children for whom the vocabulary is a barrier. The writing style has simplicity and dignity.

R Poole, Lynn. Ballooning in the Space Age; illus. by Gustav Schrotter. 6-9 Whittlesey House, 1958. 160p. \$3.

Because the gathering of some information about the atmosphere and outer space requires human observation or more time than can be available from high-speed flights, scientists are making use of balloon flights today. With this background, the author describes the history of balloon ascensionists and the contributing of designers and flyers to the balloon aircraft used today. Some of the expeditions that have gathered data are described; the instruments, findings, and problems of the expeditions are explained. An interesting final chapter envisions the part that balloonists will play in future investigative flight. Material is well organized and the writing is in readable and smooth-flowing style.

M Popham, Hugh. The Fabulous Voyage of the Pegasus; with illus. by Graham 5-6 Oakley. Criterion, 1959. 150p. \$3.25.

A nautical fantasy. Lee-O, the Jolly Yachtsman, sets off with his crew to sail the Seven Seas. Their adventures have to do with Pirates, an Albatross, a Monster Narwhal. And many, many other ploys, at the last of which Poseidon comes up from the deeps to reward the sailors. Humor is heavy: names like Mr. Ladle (the Cook) and Mr. Piston (the Engineer) are used consistently. The writing style is ornate, conver-

sation included; there is frequent use of nonsense words—i.e., "... it means, oh, awfuliginous, ghasstible—something like that." Familiar names and many famous legends of the sea are made fun of, but the joke is pushed too hard and is flat.

M Price, Olive May. The Golden Wheel; illus. by Ann Eshner. Westminster, 5-7 1958. 176p. \$2.75.

The story of a fourteen-year-old boy who lived in Persia in the beginning of the 17th century. Ahmed, whose father is a famous grower of herbs, wants to pursue a more adventurous career and become a charioteer. He has an opportunity to see his hero, the great charioteer Mardonius, and is given as a talisman a golden wheel. Ahmed is sent on a dangerous mission; he goes to the king's physician with a secret formula that his father has devised. With him goes Selim, a young donkey-driver. The boys meet an English lad and the three have many adventures. The fast-paced adventure of the boys' trip will appeal to some readers, but the plot is artificial and flamboyant, and the characters are superficially portrayed.

R Rich, Louise (Dickinson). The First Book of the Early Settlers; pictures by 4-6 Douglas Gorsline. Watts, 1959. 83p. \$1.95.

Very readable description of life in four colonies: Virginia, Plymouth, New Amsterdam, and Delaware. The author gives some of the background of the people who came to clear the wilderness in each colony, and tells of their work habits, their relationship with the Indians, their agriculture, diet, costume, and living habits. Informative, and especially useful in the notes about the contributions made by each group that are still a part of our culture. Illustrations are unattractive, although some give details of construction or costume that are helpful.

Ad Ripper, Charles L. The Weasel Family. Morrow, 1959. 64p. \$2.50. 3-5

An introduction to the weasel and to other members of the weasel family: the striped skunk, the mink, the otter, the marten, the wolverine, and the badger. Habitat, diet, hunting habits, and physical characteristics are described, as is the value of the fur to hunters. The author makes clear his conviction that each of the animals fills a place in the balance of nature and should be allowed by men to maintain its population. One illustration showing the animal kingdom (depicted as a part of a tree) indicates that the main division is into vertebrates and invertebrates, but shows a branch above labeled "insects," whereas insects are a part of the animal kingdom.

SpR Sereby, Kate. The Tenement Tree. Viking, 1959. 96p. \$3. 3-4

Tino was a small boy with a large imagination, and his family felt that he went too far—all except Aunt Trina, who lived in the country. Tino went to spend a summer with Aunt Trina; he would tell her what he had seen and she would draw a picture when she had guessed. When, for example, Tino reported that he had seen an old lady knitting, Aunt Trina (who illustrated storybooks) drew a picture of a sedate praying mantis. Aunt Trina had a surprise—to show the family how valuable an imagination could be: a contract for a new book in which it was stated that Tino would receive half the earnings from sales of the book. While the text of the book seems to be in large part superimposed on the illustrations, it is a pleasant story and the illustrations themselves are a delight—soft black and white, beautiful and fanciful. The book will have a special appeal for the sensitive reader or the child with acute visual perception.

M Silverman, Mel. Good-for-Nothing Burro. World, 1958. 40p. \$2.50. K-2

Paco didn't want his father to sell the little burro although he knew the animal was

often a nuisance. The burro broke the pinata and trampled the goodies, he kicked in the fence, he ruined the materials for an angel that Papa was making for the Fiesta; but when the car broke down, Papa found that it was very handy to have something that could go by itself. A slow-moving story in which both text and pictures are pedestrian.

Ad Snell, Ada L. F. Joyful Songs; Carols of the Nativity. Bookman, 1958. 76p. 7-12 \$2.50.

A collection of old carols and Christmas verses, some of which are from parchment manuscripts. Several of the carols are translated from French; sources for all the selections are given at the back of the book. An interesting collection; since no music is included, the appeal will be limited to children old enough to understand the lines when they are read aloud, and will be strongest for the reader old enough to appreciate the literary value.

R Stinetorf, Louisa (Allender). Musa the Shoemaker; illus. by Harper Johnson. 6-8 Lippincott, 1959. 183p. \$3.

In the North African village of Villeperes lived a boy of fourteen named Musa; he could not follow the traditional pattern of the males of Villeperes because they were all acrobats—and Musa was lame. The men of the village took Musa by caravan to Oran for an operation and Musa was separated from his party. By chance he met and helped the mother of the Governor, and his way was made smooth. The operation was performed successfully and Musa, in gratitude, made a pair of shoes for the granddaughter of the great lady. Resigned to the fact that he could never be an acrobat, Musa planned to study medicine so that he could help others as he had been helped. While the plot depends in some instances on coincidence, the description of African life and of the rural and urban customs is superb—absorbing to read, informative, and valuable for international understanding.

R Syme, Ronald. Vasco da Gama; Sailor toward the Sunrise; illus. by William 4-6 Stobbs. Morrow, 1959. 96p. \$2.75.

The story of da Gama's voyages around Africa and his achievement of a voyage to India, the first European explorer to make such a voyage. The relationships of the Portuguese sailors with the Arabs and Indians they met is described with candor; in da Gama's story is also told the whole story of the Portuguese colonial empire and its decay. A well-written and exciting book, emphasizing da Gama's years as an explorer but giving little other biographical information.

M Taylor, Reginald. Circus Triumphant; illus. by Tony Weare. Criterion Books, 7-9 1958. 253p. \$3.50.

The story of a father and son who set out as a traveling circus in England a century ago. The trials and the joys of circus life are depicted; the skirmishes with rival troupes and the struggle to build a successful show give a rather interesting account of the early family tent circus. The weakness of the book is in the rather dull and repetitive descriptive passages.

R Underhill, Ruth M. Beaverbird; A Story of Indians on the Coast of Washington, 3-5 Before the Coming of the Whites; illus. by Robert Garland. Coward-McCann, 1959. 224p. \$3.

The story of a small Indian boy who was captured by another tribe. The Kalapuya Indians, great hunters of the Willamette Valley, were raided in 1760; Beaverbird, age twelve, was taken to the enemy settlement where his only friends were the chief's daughter and an old woman of his own tribe who had been captured in a previous raid. Eventually the boy's skill at hunting persuaded the elders to adopt him as a member of the tribe. Beaverbird had learned by this time that the important thing was to be-

long, to know the ways, and to be accepted; he was content with his new role. The author is an anthropologist and the details of early American Indian culture are informative; since she writes with skill the book is absorbing as well.

M Ungerer, Tomi. Adelaide. Harper, 1959. 40p. \$2.75.

K-2

Adelaide was an unusual kangaroo; she had wings. One day she decided to follow an airplane, and flew along, stopping at many places, until she decided to stay in Paris. There she had a happy and successful life as a theater performer. One day she flew up and rescued two children from a fire, but was hospitalized herself as a result; during her convalescence she visited a zoo, where she met another kangaroo who became her husband. They lived happily ever after. All the humor is dependent on the fact that Adelaide is a winged kangaroo; the story of her adventures adds no new element of humor and the book seems rather drawn out. The illustrations of Paris and Parisians are amusing, but many of the details that appeal to the reader with some knowledge of France will not be appreciated by small children.

R Viertel, Violette and John. Xingu; pictures by Karla Kuskin. Macmillan, 4-5 1959. 73p. \$2.75.

Xingu and his parents lived in a very lonely clearing along the Amazon; when he went with his father to visit a village and met other children, Xingu was very shy and was ashamed that he didn't know the games the others knew. One day he met a vicuña, a gentle animal who introduced the boy to other forest dwellers. From them Xingu learned much of the lore of the jungle. When Xingu received a bow and arrow for a birthday present, he frightened all his animal friends and he was then so sorry that he decided he did not want to be a hunter. All of the men of his people had always been hunters, but Xingu was going to plant things; and one day all the men of the tribe would speak of Xingu as a wise man. A gentle and charming story, pleasant to read aloud to children below fourth grade. Illustrations are appealing.

R Ziegler, Elsie Reif. The Face in the Stone; decorations by Ray Abel. 7-10 Longmans, 1959. 184p. \$2.75.

A picture of the Serbian community in Chicago at the turn of the century. Dushan has come from the Serbian village whose men are famous stonecutters to work in the stoneyard and to avenge his father's death. His oldest friend had told him how an American had caused his father's fatal fall; Dushan finds, however, that this is untrue, and that the friend, Rondo, had lied about the affair for his own nefarious reasons. Dushan wins a respected place in the community, helps the other Serbians understand the American union activities, and wins a bride. The plot is a good framework for the very interesting background; in presenting the conflict between two cultures and the realistic ambivalence of the younger immigrants, the author has drawn people who are warm, vivid, and highly individual.

R Zion, Eugene. The Plant Sitter; pictures by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, K-2 1959. 32p. \$2.50.

Tommy's father and mother were surprised when their house became filled with plants, and Tommy explained that he was caring for the plants for all the neighbors who had gone on vacation. Tommy enjoyed having the house crowded with plants, but his father was rather irritated. The plants had such good care that they became overgrown, so Tommy found out about trimming them and making cuttings. When the neighbors came home, they were very pleased with Tommy's work; their children were delighted with the baby plants that Tommy had potted. Of all things, Father found that he missed the plants; he also found that he wasn't too busy for a vacation, so the retired plant sitter and his parents went off to the country. An entertaining story, attractively illustrated.

Reading for Parents

- Arbuthnot, May Hill. "Reading." Childhood Education, pp. 345-48. April, 1959.
- Barnouw, Elsa, and Swan, Arthur. Adventures with Children. Crowell, 1959. 197p. \$3.75. For parents and nursery school teachers, a text on preschool experience.
- Brumbaugh, Florence, and Roshco, Bernard. Your Gifted Child. Holt, 1959. 182p. \$3.75.
- Child Study Association. A Parent's Bookshelf. Annual revision for 1959 obtainable from the Association, 132 E. 74th St., New York 21, N. Y. A bibliography of books on child development and family life. Single copy free, 5 for \$.25, 10 for \$.40, 25 and up, each \$.03.
- Frank, Josette. "Children's Books and the Literature of Human Understanding," pp. 33-36. Child Study, Spring, 1959.
- Larrick, Nancy. Your Child and His Reading; How Parents Can Help. Public Affairs Committee, 1959. 28p. \$.25. Available from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th St., New York 16, N. Y. Based on material in A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading by the same author.
- National Parent Teacher. Guiding Children as They Grow. National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 N. Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill. \$1, paperbound. A selection of recent articles from the magazine.
- Roeper, Annemarie. "Nursery School: A Place To Adjust or a Place To Learn?" pp. 3-9. Child Study, Spring, 1959.
- Young, Marion. "A Report on Self-Selection in Reading." Elementary English, pp. 176-81. March, 1958.

